

# Socioeconomic Study of Reefs in Southeast Florida : Miami-Dade County

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This study used extensive survey research over the twelve-month period from June 2000 to May 2001 to measure the economic contribution and the use values of artificial and natural reefs to the economies and the reef users of southeast Florida.

This study was co-funded by the four southeast Florida counties (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and



Monroe), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In all of southeast Florida, residents and visitors spent 28 million

person-days using artificial and natural reefs during the 12-month period. Of this amount, residents and visitors spent about 9.2 million person-days using the reefs in Miami-Dade County, or about 33 percent of the regional total. A person-day is one person participating in an activity for a portion or all of a day.

Artificial and Natural Reef Use in Millions of Person-Days Miami-Dade County, Florida - June 2000 to May 2001			
Reef Use by	Artificial Reefs	Natural Reefs	All Reefs
Reef Type	2.95	6.22	9.17
Reef Use by	Residents	Visitors	All Users
User Type	4.51	4.66	9.17
Reef Use by	Snorkeling	SCUBA Diving	Fishing
Recreation Type	2.11	1.14	5.90

Reef-related expenditures generated \$614 million in income to Miami-Dade County over the 12-month period and created 19,000 jobs.

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Economic Contribution of Reefs to Miami-Dade County, Florida June 2000 to May 2001 (Generated from Reef-Related Expenditures)		
Sales (\$ million)	Income (\$ million)	Employment (FT and PT Jobs)
\$1,297	\$614	19,000

Recreational fishers, divers and snorkelers who use Miami-Dade County's reefs are willing to pay \$47 million per year to maintain these reefs in their existing condition.

Natural reef users are willing to pay \$47 million per year to maintain the natural reefs in Miami-Dade County. Artificial reef users are willing to pay \$10 million per year to maintain the existing artificial reefs and \$4.1 million per year to add new artificial reefs to the Miami-Dade County system.

Annual User Value to Maintain Reefs in Their Existing Condition - Miami-Dade County (million dollars)		
Artificial Reefs	Natural Reefs	All Reefs
\$10.3	\$46.7	\$47.0

A majority of Miami-Dade County resident reef users would support "no take" zones on 20 percent of the natural reef system.



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